

## Federal Trade Commission

## § 423.8

use of the product, pursuant to the instructions set forth in § 423.6. Care information on the end of the bolt need only address information applicable to the fabric.

### § 423.8 Exemptions.

(a) Any item of textile wearing apparel, without pockets, that is totally reversible (i.e., the product is designed to be used with either side as the outer part or face) is exempt from the care label requirement.

(b) Manufacturers or importers can ask for an exemption from the care label requirement for any other textile wearing apparel product or product line, if the label would harm the appearance or usefulness of the product. The request must be made in writing to the Secretary of the Commission. The request must be accompanied by a labeled sample of the product and a full statement explaining why the request should be granted.

(c) If an item is exempt from care labeling under paragraph (a) or (b), of this section the consumers still must be given the required care information for the product. However, the care information can be put on a hang tag, on the package, or in some other conspicuous place, so that consumers will be able to see the care information before buying the product.

(d) Manufacturers and importers of products covered by § 423.5 are exempt from the requirement for a permanent care label if the product can be cleaned safely under the harshest procedures. This exemption is available only if there is reliable proof that all of the following washing and drycleaning procedures can safely be used on a product:

- (1) Machine washing in hot water;
- (2) Machine drying at a high setting;
- (3) Ironing at a hot setting;
- (4) Bleaching with all commercially available bleaches;
- (5) Drycleaning with all commercially available solvents. In such case, the statement "wash or dry clean, any normal method" must appear on a hang tag, on the package, or in some other conspicuous place, so that consumers will be able to see the statement before buying the product.

If a product meets the requirements outlined above, it is automatically exempt from the care label requirement. It is not necessary to file a request for this exemption.

(e) Manufacturers and importers need not provide care information with products sold to institutional buyers for commercial use.

(f) All exemption granted under § 423.1(c) (1) or (2) or the Care Labeling Rule issued on December 9, 1971, will continue to be in effect if the product still meets the standards on which the original exemption was based. Otherwise, the exemption is automatically revoked.

(g) The symbol system developed by the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) and designated as ASTM Standard D5489-96c Guide to Care Symbols for Care Instructions on Consumer Textile Products may be used on care labels or care instructions in lieu of terms so long as the symbols fulfill the requirements of this part. In addition, symbols from the symbol system designated as ASTM Standard D5489-96c may be combined with terms so long as the symbols and terms used fulfill the requirements of this part. Provided, however, that for the 18-month period beginning on July 1, 1997, such symbols may be used on care labels in lieu of terms only if an explanation of the meaning of the symbols used on the care label in terms is attached to, or provided with, the item of textile wearing apparel. This incorporation by reference was approved by the Director of the Federal Register in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552(a) and 1 CFR part 51. Copies of ASTM Standard D5489-96c Guide to Care Symbols for Care Instructions on Textile Products may be obtained from the American Society for Testing and Materials, 100 Barr Harbor Drive, West Conshohocken, PA 19428, or may be inspected at the Federal Trade Commission, room 130, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC, or at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). For information on the availability of this material at NARA, call 202-741-6030, or go to: [http://www.archives.gov/federal\\_register/](http://www.archives.gov/federal_register/)

## § 423.9

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(15 U.S.C. 41–58)

[48 FR 22743, May 20, 1983; 48 FR 24869, June 3, 1983, as amended at 62 FR 29008, May 29, 1997; 69 FR 18803, Apr. 9, 2004]

### § 423.9 Conflict with flammability standards.

If there is a conflict between this regulation and any regulations issued under the Flammable Fabrics Act, the Flammable Fabrics regulation govern over this one.

### § 423.10 Stayed or invalid parts.

If any part of this regulation is stayed or held invalid, the rest of it will stay in force.

#### APPENDIX A TO PART 423—GLOSSARY OF STANDARD TERMS

##### 1. *Washing, Machine Methods:*

a. “Machine wash”—a process by which soil may be removed from products or specimens through the use of water, detergent or soap, agitation, and a machine designed for this purpose. When no temperature is given, e.g., “warm” or “cold,” hot water up to 145 degrees F (63 degrees C) can be regularly used.

b. “Hot”—initial water temperature ranging from 112 to 145 degrees F [45 to 63 degrees C].

c. “Warm”—initial water temperature ranging from 87 to 111 degrees F [31 to 44 degrees C].

d. “Cold”—initial water temperature up to 86 degrees F [30 degrees C].

e. “Do not have commercially laundered”—do not employ a laundry which uses special formulations, sour rinses, extremely large loads or extremely high temperatures or which otherwise is employed for commercial, industrial or institutional use. Employ laundering methods designed for residential use or use in a self-service establishment.

f. “Small load”—smaller than normal washing load.

g. “Delicate cycle” or “gentle cycle”—slow agitation and reduced time.

h. “Durable press cycle” or “permanent press cycle”—cool down rinse or cold rinse before reduced spinning.

i. “Separately”—alone.

j. “With like colors”—with colors of similar hue and intensity.

k. “Wash inside out”—turn product inside out to protect face of fabric.

l. “Warm rinse”—initial water temperature setting 90° to 110 °F (32° to 43 °C).

m. “Cold rinse”—initial water temperature setting same as cold water tap up to 85 °F (29 °C).

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n. “Rinse thoroughly”—rinse several times to remove detergent, soap, and bleach.

o. “No spin” or “Do not spin”—remove material start of final spin cycle.

p. “No wring” or “Do not wring”—do not use roller wringer, nor wring by hand.

##### 2. *Washing, Hand Methods:*

a. “Hand wash”—a process by which soil may be manually removed from products or specimens through the use of water, detergent or soap, and gentle squeezing action. When no temperature is given, e.g., “warm” or “cold,” hot water up to 150 °F (66 °C) can be regularly used.

b. “Warm”—initial water temperature 90° to 110 °F (32° to 43 °C) (hand comfortable).

c. “Cold”—initial water temperature same as cold water tap up to 85 °F (29 °C).

d. “Separately”—alone.

e. “With like colors”—with colors of similar hue and intensity.

f. “No wring or twist”—handle to avoid wrinkles and distortion.

g. “Rinse thoroughly”—rinse several times to remove detergent, soap, and bleach.

h. “Damp wipe only”—surface clean with damp cloth or sponge.

##### 3. *Drying, All Methods:*

a. “Tumble dry”—use machine dryer. When no temperature setting is given, machine drying at a hot setting may be regularly used.

b. “Medium”—set dryer at medium heat.

c. “Low”—set dryer at low heat.

d. “Durable press” or “Permanent press”—set dryer at permanent press setting.

e. “No heat”—set dryer to operate without heat.

f. “Remove promptly”—when items are dry, remove immediately to prevent wrinkling.

g. “Drip dry”—hang dripping wet with or without hand shaping and smoothing.

h. “Line dry”—hang damp from line or bar in or out of doors.

i. “Line dry in shade”—dry away from sun.

j. “Line dry away from heat”—dry away from heat.

k. “Dry flat”—lay out horizontally for drying.

l. “Block to dry”—reshape to original dimensions while drying.

m. “Smooth by hand”—by hand, while wet, remove wrinkles, straighten seams and facings.

##### 4. *Ironing and Pressing:*

a. “Iron”—Ironing is needed. When no temperature is given iron at the highest temperature setting may be regularly used.

b. “Warm iron”—medium temperature setting.

c. “Cool iron”—lowest temperature setting.

d. “Do not iron”—item not to be smoothed or finished with an iron.

e. “Iron wrong side only”—article turned inside out for ironing or pressing.